

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MED-03 ABF-01 SCS-06 IO-14
PM-05 CA-01 HA-05 OES-07 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0162
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
CNO WASHDC PRIORITY
CDC ATLANTA GA PRIORITY
CSA WASHDC PRIORITY
CSAF WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1879

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; STATE FOR OFDA; ATTN: AID/OFDA AND FM/CSD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, MV, CE

SUBJ: CHOLERA IN REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

REF: STATE 100805 (AIDAC)

FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS ASKED PARA 3 REFTEL AND ANSWERS TO THEM. ANSWERS WERE PROVIDED BY DIRECTOR, UNICEF.

(A) WHAT IS THE PROPORTION OF DEATHS TO KNOWN/ESTIMATED ILLNESSES?

ACCORDING TO AN EPIDEMIC REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON 14 APRIL, 15 OUT OF 19 ATOLLS AND 74 OF THE 203 ISLANDS ARE AFFECTED, WITH APOPULATION OF 120,075 AT RISK. 166 PEOPLE DIED OF A TOTAL OF 5,656 WHO HAD SYMPTOMS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SEVERE DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING. THE CURRENT TOAL OF CASES AS OF 14 APRIL AMOUNTED TO 1,190. 64 STOOL SPECIMENS COLLECTED FROM THREE ATOLLS (INCLUDING MALE,) WERE CONFIRMED AS CHOLERA VIBRIO. A REPORT RECEIVED FROM UNICEF STAFF IN MALE ON 15 APRIL INDICATED A WORSENING OF THE SITUATIN WITH 77 ISLANDS AFFECTED, A TOTAL OF 5,795 PEOPLE WITH SYMPTOMS, A CURRENT TOTAL OF 1,017 CASES WITH 172 DEATHS IN THE SAME

ATOLLS.

(B) ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT POCKETS OF INFECTION WHICH ARE NOT BEING TREATED?

MOST OF THE AFFECTED ATOLLS HAVE BEEN VISITED BY A MEDICAL TEAM AT LEAST ON ONE INSTANCE ALTHOUGH ALL THE AFFECTED ISLANDS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN COVERED. HOWEVER, IN THE OUTER ATOLLS CONTINUOUS AND ADEQUATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IS NOT AVAILABLE EXCEPT ON THE CHIEF ISLAND OF THE ATOLL WHICH HAS A HEALTH POST AND A TRAINED HEALTH WORKER.

(C) HAVE THE DOCTORS SET UP TREATMENT CENTERS?

FOUR MEDICAL TEAMS ARE OPERATING IN THE OUTER ATOLLS AND A FIFTH TEAM SHOULD HAVE BEGUN WORK ON COVERING KAAF ATOLL WHICH INCLUDES MALE. ON APRIL 18, WITH THE PRESIDENT TAKING OVER THE COORDINATING ROLE IN THE EPIDEMIC CONTROL PROGRAM, THE NATIONAL STADIUM WAS CONVERTED INTO AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND VACCINATION CENTER. ON 19 APRIL, 20 ADDITIONAL BEDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE IN TEMPORARY SHEDS AT THE MALE GENERAL HOSPITAL. ADDITIONAL MEDICAL TEAMS WILL BE ORGANIZED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DOCTORS FROM SRI LANKA, WHO ARRIVED MALE 20 APRIL, AND US DOCTORS ARRIVING MALE 23 APRIL.

(D) ARE THERE SUFFICIENT MEDICAL SUPPLIES?

SUPPLIES SEEM TO BE ADEQUATE.

(E) ARE THERE SUFFICIENT NURSES?

THE ONLY HOSPITAL IN THE MALDIVES IS IN MALE WHICH HAS 54 BEDS. IT HAS 9 TRAINED MEDICAL OFFICERS, 7 QUALIFIED NURSES AND 21 NURSE ASSISTANTS. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE FOUR WHO UNCLASSIFIED

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PERSONNEL (ONE OF WHOM IS A DOCTOR) WHO WERE WORKING ON THE MALARIA/WATER/TB AND LEPROSY PROGRAM AND WHO HAVE NOW BEEN MOBILIZED FOR THE EPIDEMIC. A WHO SHORT TERM CONSULTANT WHO COVERS MCH IS ALSO THERE AT PRESENT FOR TWO WEEKS IN ADDITION TO THREE WHO CONSULTANTS SPECIALLY RECRUITED FOR THE EPIDEMIC - TWO EPIDEMIOLOGISTS (ONE SINCE 3 APRIL AND ONE SINCE 20 APRIL) AND ONE BACTERIOLOGIST SINCE 3 APRIL. 19 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS ARE AT PRESENT IN HEALTH POSTS ON ATOLLS. FOUR TRAINEES AND THREE SENIOR HEALTH ASSISTANTS, USUALLY WORKING ON THE TB/LEPROSY SURVEY AND SEVEN DOMICILIARY WORKERS USUALLY WORKING ON THE MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAM HAVE ALSO BEEN MOBILIZED. 14 RECRUITED NURSE AIDES (NOT TRAINED) AND 11 TRAINEE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS IN ADDITION TO NON MEDICAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH STAFF ARE BEING MOBILIZED. 110 CADETS AND GIRL GUIDES HAVE BEEN MOBILIZED AS VOLUNTEERS SINCE 19 APRIL.

(F) ARE DOCTORS USING BOTH ORAL AND IV SOLUTIONS?

YES. THE MAJOR NUMBER OF CASES ARE DOING EXTREMELY WELL WITH ONLY ORAL SOLUTIONS. THE VERY DEHYDRATED CASES ARE BEGUN WITH IV FLUIDS AND TRANSFERRED TO ORAL SOLUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. USE OF IV FLUIDS IS RESTRICTED TO INSTANCES WHERE TRAINED MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARE PRESENT. THE MAJOR EMPHASIS IS THEREFORE ON ORAL REHYDRATION.

(G) HAVE ANY OTHER DONORS SENT DOCTORS/EPIDEMIOLOGISTS?

IF SO, WHO ARE THEY?

NAME DATE OF ARRIVAL FUNDING

DR. K. ARORA 3 APRIL WHO

EPIDEMIOLOGIST, NATIONAL

INSTITUTE OF COMM.

DISEASES INDIA (NICD)

DR. R. SARKAR 3 APRIL WHO

BACTERIOLOGIST, NICD

DR. A.V.K.V. DE SILVA 20 APRIL WHO

EPIDEMIOLOGIST, MIN. OF

HEALTH, SRI LANKA

FOUR SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICERS FROM SRI LANKA

DR. H.P. FERNANDO 20 APRIL

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DR. S. AMERASEKERA 20 APRIL

DR. C. BALASUNDERAM 20 APRIL

DR. S.W.M. PERERA 20 APRIL

THE MALDIVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO PAY FOR THEIR FLIGHT

TO MALE. IT IS PRESUMED THAT LIVING EXPENSES WILL BE BORNE

BY THE MALDIVIAN GOVERNMENT.

WRIGGINS

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